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Operational Assistance

A. U.S./Free World health teams augment capabilities of all fifty provincial and prefectural health services. Team activity is focused primarily on surgical treatment, but increasingly emphasizes disease prevention--Vietnam's principal health problem.

B. U.S. military hospitals in-country treat the more serious civilian war casualties. (Average monthly admissions to MACV hospitals through October 1969 - 752.)

C. U.S. Government (State/DOD) provided Ministry of Health with about $12 million in medical supplies in FY 1969.

D. Emergency construction program for basic health facilities has yielded thirty surgical suites, six new provincial hospitals (two more nearing completion), and eleven provincial hospitals largely renovated under AID funding. Meanwhile the Ministry of Health is in process of opening a new hospital in Gia Dinh Province and the Federal Republic of Germany has started constructing a new hospital at Da Nang.

E. An AID contractor has established a Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Center which concentrates on treatment of war-wounded children.

Institutional Development

A. AID contractors (American Medical Association and American Dental Association) are providing main support for Ministry of Education in improving medical and dental education programs at Saigon University. The main thrust of this effort is to produce competent, practicing physicians and dentists at graduation.

B. AID also is supporting a program for expanding and improving the Ministry of Health's corps of medical technical personnel.

C. World Health Organization (with principal support from the U.S., the Netherlands, and Canada) is assisting the Ministry of Health in establishing a National Institute of Public Health. The NIPH will give Vietnam an effective research, training, and technical service.

D. An AID grantee (World Rehabilitation Fund, Inc.) has provided principal assistance in establishing Vietnam's National Rehabilitation Institute, which restores the physically handicapped, including war-wounded, to useful lives.

Future Assistance

As the war passes, direct operational assistance will be systematically phased out. Postwar activity will concentrate principally on education and training to remedy gross deficits in health manpower, on supporting a comprehensive public health/preventive medicine effort to eliminate Vietnam's formidable problem of communicable disease, and on the rehabilitation of the handicapped.